



## Changes to the blue card system

From 31 August 2020, changes are coming to strengthen and streamline the blue card system under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*.

This fact sheet summarises these changes under what we refer to as the No Card, No Start laws.

The changes will include technical changes which will allow people to apply online. We have also developed an online portal to assist organisations to manage their blue card holders and applicants.

### How will these changes impact you?

1. You can apply or renew your blue card online. This means a faster approval time for most applicants.
2. We're putting photos on blue cards, so when applying you'll need a Customer Reference Number (CRN) from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (it's the number on your driver licence, photo identity card or proof-of-age card). We use the photo linked to your CRN for your blue card. If you don't have a CRN, you'll need to get one.
3. Card holders must tell us when there is a change in their police information.
4. Everyone must now have a valid blue card before they start paid work, volunteer or start a business.
5. Organisations must check a card holder's ID and link them to their organisation before they can start work.
6. Volunteers and students need to be linked to an organisation to continue getting a blue card for free.
7. You can pay for and apply for a blue card before you get a job. This means you can be job ready.
8. A simplified frequency test now applies to paid employees, volunteers and students. This will mean people working with kids for not more than 7 days in a calendar year will not need a blue card. However this does not apply to business operators as they will require a blue card.
9. There are stricter requirements for people who previously relied on an exemption to work or volunteer with children. For example volunteer parents or individuals who are under 18 years of age who have been issued a negative notice or had their card suspended or been convicted of disqualifying offences or been charged with a disqualifying offence not yet finalised by a court, cannot volunteer in regulated employment.
10. Queensland police and teachers registered in Queensland now have a 3 year expiry date on their exemption cards.
11. All card holders must renew their blue card before it expires to continue working with kids.
12. There are new offences and penalties for individuals and organisations who do not comply with the new laws.

### Resources

Further information about these changes and other materials to support your organisation are available on our website.

### Need more information?

To see how these changes affect you, please visit our website at [www.qld.gov.au/bluecard](http://www.qld.gov.au/bluecard) or telephone us on **1800 113 611** or **07 3211 6999**.

